

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for remotely operating an imaging system, comprising:
 providing information regarding an imaging system environment to a remote
 location; and
 activating the imaging system from the remote location based on the
 information regarding the imaging system environment.
- 10 2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein information regarding the imaging
 system environment comprises at least one of a video, one or more images, an audible
 indicator, a textual message, a temperature, and a humidity.
- 15 3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein information regarding the imaging
 system environment comprises one or more indicia of the presence of a person.
4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein information regarding the imaging
 system environment comprises one or more indicia of the position of a moving
20 component of the imaging system.
5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein providing information comprises
 transmitting the information over at least one of a network and a dedicated line.
- 25 6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the remote location is a remote
 service facility.
7. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the imaging system comprises one
 of a CT imaging system, an MR imaging system, an EBT imaging system, a
30 tomosynthesis imaging system, a PET imaging system, and a digital X-ray imaging
 system.

8. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising acquiring the information regarding the imaging system environment from at least one of a local operator and one or more local sensors.

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9. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the one or more local sensors comprise a video camera, a web cam, a still camera, a microphone, a thermometer, a thermocouple, a pressure sensor, and a hygrometer.

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10. A computer program, provided on one or more computer readable media, for facilitating remote operation of an imaging system, comprising:

a routine for providing information regarding an imaging system environment to a remote location; and

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a routine for activating the imaging system from the remote location based on the information regarding the imaging system environment.

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11. The computer program as recited in claim 10, wherein information regarding the imaging system environment comprises at least one of a video, one or more images, an audible indicator, a textual message, a temperature, and a humidity.

12. The computer program as recited in claim 10, wherein information regarding the imaging system environment comprises one or more indicia of the presence of a person.

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13. The computer program as recited in claim 10, wherein information regarding the imaging system environment comprises the position of a moving component of the imaging system.

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14. The computer program as recited in claim 10, wherein the imaging system comprises one of a CT imaging system, an MR imaging system, an EBT imaging

system, a tomosynthesis imaging system, a PET imaging system, and a digital X-ray imaging system.

15. The computer program as recited in claim 10, further comprising a routine for acquiring the information regarding the imaging system environment from at least one of a local operator and one or more local sensors.

16. The computer program as recited in claim 10, wherein the one or more local sensors comprise a video camera, a web cam, a still camera, a microphone, a thermometer, a thermocouple, a pressure sensor, and a hygrometer.

17. An imaging system, comprising:

a local imaging system, comprising:

an imager configured to detect one or more signals which may be converted into a physiological image;

one or more data acquisition circuits configured to receive and process the one or more signals from the imager;

one or more system control circuits configured to control the imager and the data acquisition circuits;

at least one local workstation configured to communicate with the one or more system control circuits;

a remote workstation configured to communicate with the one or more system control circuits via a network connection; and

one or more local sensors configured to acquire information regarding the local imaging system environment and to transmit the information to the remote workstation.

18. The imaging system as recited in claim 17, wherein the one or more local sensors transmits the information over at least one of a network and a dedicated line.

19. The imaging system as recited in claim 17, wherein the local imaging system comprises one of a CT imaging system, an MR imaging system, an EBT imaging system, a tomosynthesis imaging system, a PET imaging system, and a digital X-ray imaging system.

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20. The imaging system as recited in claim 17, wherein the one or more local sensors comprise a video camera, a web cam, a still camera, a microphone, a thermometer, a thermocouple, a pressure sensor, and a hygrometer.

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21. An imaging system, comprising:

a local imaging system, comprising:

an imager configured to detect one or more signals which may be converted into a physiological image;

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one or more data acquisition circuits configured to receive and process the one or more signals from the imager;

one or more system control circuits configured to control the imager and the data acquisition circuits;

at least one local workstation configured to communicate with the one or more system control circuits;

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a remote workstation configured to communicate with the one or more system control circuits via a network connection;

means for providing information regarding the local imaging system environment to the remote workstation.

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